

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: NETWORK TV NEWS COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S PRESS
CONFERENCE

1. NBC - TOM BROKAW: FULL FIRST HALF OF PROGRAM DEVOTED TO SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE AND COMMENTS. BROKAW IMMEDIATELY WENT TO JOHN CHANCELLOR IN SALZBURG WHO SAID, "PRESIDENT NIXON'S TRIP ABROAD GOT OFF TO A REMARKABLE START TODAY -- HIS SECRETARY OF STATE THREATENED TO RESIGN." CHANCELLOR STATED HAK "CALLED THE STRANGEST PRESS CONFERENCE EVER HELD BY AN AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE, "AND THEN WENT ON TO REVIEW SECRETARY'S COMMENTS AND RESPONSES, FOLLOWED BY HAK ON CAMERA FOR SEVERAL MINUTES STATING: "IT IS TOTALLY INCORRECT AND OUTRAGEOUS TO SAY ... AND IF IT IS NOT CLEARED UP, I WILL RESIGN." FOLLOWED WITH FILM ON QUESTION AND ANSWER WHETHER THREAT OF RESIGNATION COULD HAVE WAITED UNTIL END OF MIDDLE EAST AND SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS.

SWITCHED TO VALERIANI: "IT STARTED LAST THURSDAY AT HIS
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NEWS CONFERENCE WHEN KISSINGER WAS ASKED IF HE HAD HIRED A LAWYER TO DEFEND HIMSELF AGAINST POSSIBLE PERJURY CHARGES. KISSINGER WAS UPSET THAT THE COVERAGE OF HIS FIRST NEWS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT FOCUSED ON THE WIRETAPPING ISSUE, RATHER THAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THEN CAME AN EDITORIAL IN THE SUNDAY

WASHINGTON POST, CHALLENGING HIS PERSONAL INTEGRITY AND HIS EFFECTIVENESS AS A PUBLIC OFFICIAL, URGING THE SFRC TO RECALL HIM TO SEE IF HE WAS REALLY TELLING THE TRUTH WHEN HE TESTIFIED UNDER OATH LAST FALL. AN ARTICLE IN THE SUNDAY NEW YORK TIMES AND AN EDITORIAL IN TODAY'S TIMES INSINUATED THAT HE HAD LIED TO THE COMMITTEE ABOUT HIS WIRETAPPING ROLE. KISSINGER'S AIDES SAID HE THOUGHT HE WAS BEING BLED TO DEATH AND HE WANTED TO PUT A STOP TO IT, OR AT LEAST BRING IT OUT INTO THE OPEN. AND SO TODAY HE ACTED. WHAT HIS AIDES BELIEVE, BUT DO NOT SAY, IS THIS: WITH THE FUTURE OF THE PRESIDENT UNDER A CLOUD, THE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN POLICY IS ALREADY DIFFICULT ENOUGH. FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO BE ENVELOPED IN THE SAME ATMOSPHERE, NO AMERICAN COMMITMENTS WOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, AND THE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN POLICY WOULD BECOME IMPOSSIBLE."

RETURNED TO BROKAW WITH HILL REACTION, FIRST FROM RAY SCHERER CORNERING HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS. FIRST, JOSHUA EILBERG, WHO SAID: HE, OR HIS ASSISTANT COL. HAIG INITIATED WIRETAPS ON EMPLOYEES, AND ON NEWSPAPERMEN. THERE WERE SOME 17 EXTRAORDINARY TAPES, AND DR. KISSINGER DID PARTICIPATE IN INITIATING SOME OF THOSE TAPES.

SCHERER: HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT, MR. EILBERG?

EILBERG: WELL, THAT APPEARED IN THE PRESENTATION. I CANNOT TELL YOU THE PRECISE DETAILS BUT THAT WAS WHAT REVEALED TO US.

THEN IMMEDIATELY TO DON EDWARDS (D-CALIF): "NO, NOT TRUE. ITS ONLY FAIR TO REFUTE THAT ALLEGATION. IT ISN'T TRUE. WE DON'T HAVE ANY EVIDENCE TO THAT EFFECT." AND JOHN SIBERLING (D-OHIO) WHO SAID THE EVIDENCE ABOUT HAK UNCLASSIFIED

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WAS "IN BETWEEN, NOT CONCLUSIVE." SCHERER SAID SIBERLING STATED THAT J. EDGAR HOOVER HAD SUPPLIED THE EVIDENCE IN A MEMO THAT HAK "WAS RAISING HELL OVER LEAKS AND WANTED SOMETHING TO STOP THEM.

BROKAW REPORTED MANSFIELD STATED TODAY HE HAD MET WITH HAK TWICE OVER THE WEEKEND AND THAT'S WHEN HE LEARNED

HAK WAS THINKING OF RESIGNING. HAK ALSO RAISED POSSIBILITY OF NOT ACCOMPANYING THE PRESIDENT BECAUSE OF THE WIRETAP CONTROVERSY. MANSFIELD IS SAID TO HAVE STATED HE URGED HAK NOT TO RESIGN.

BROKAW THEN REFERRED TO HAK REQUEST TO SFRC TO REVIEW EVIDENCE AND SWITCHED TO JOHN COCHRAN COVERING SFRC EXECUTIVE SESSION.

FULBRIGHT (ON CAMERA): WE'VE ALREADY REQUESTED THESE DOCUMENTS AND HAVEN'T GOTTEN THEM. IN OTHER WORDS, I'M GOING TO INVITE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO MEET WITH THE COMMITTEE AND SEE IF WE CAN'T GET FULL COOPERATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WITH RESPECT TO THESE BASIC DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THIS QUESTION.

MUSKIE (ON CAMERA): OF COURSE I WOULD URGE HIM TO STAY ON THE JOB. I WOULD ALSO ACCEPT HIS SUGGESTION TO REVIEW THIS MATTER. I DONN'T KNOW WHAT IS IN POSSESSION OF OTHER PEOPLE, BUT I DON'T THINK THAT THE SECRETARY'S SWORN TESTIMONY OUGHT TO BE QUESTIONED ON THE BASIS OF UNIDENTIFIED AND UNNAMED SOURCES SUGGESTING CONTRARY CONCLUSIONS..I JUST DON'T THINK THAT'S THE RESPONSIBLE WAY TO HANDLE THE MATTER.

HUMPHREY (ON CAMERA): I THINK HE'S TIRED, I THINK HE'S BEEN WORKING TOO HARD. DR. KISSINGER IS NOT AN ELECTED OFFICIAL. HE HASN'T GONE THROUGH SOME OF THE BODY BLOWS THAT SOME OF US HAVE TO TAKE WHO WERE ELECTED. I JUST WANT TO SAY TO HIM AS A FRIEND, 'JUST COOL IT, STAY WITH IT, YOU'LL GET A FAIR HEARING. ALL OF US ARE ONLY INTERESTED IN TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT THE FACTS ARE.

COCHRAN CONCLUDED WITH QUOTES FROM TWO OTHER UNCLASSIFIED

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SENATORS. AIKEN: "THAT DAMNED FOOL. CAN'T HE TAKE

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